

Lyngngam language

Lyngngam is an Austroasiatic language of Northeast India closely related to Khasi. Once listed as a dialect of Khasi, Lyngam has in recent literature been classified as a distinct language. Lyngam speakers have food and dress similar to the neighboring Garo people.

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Phonology

Consonant inventory

The following table lists the consonants attested in Lyngam.^[3]

		Bilabial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
<u>Nasal</u>		/m/	/n/	/ɳ/	/ɳ/	
<u>Stop</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	/p/	/t/	/c/	/k/	/ʔ/
	<u>aspirated</u>	/pʰ/	/tʰ/	/cʰ/	/kʰ/	
	<u>voiced</u>	/b/	/d/	/ɟ/	/g/	
<u>Voiceless fricative</u>			/s/			/h/
<u>Liquid</u>			/l, r/			
<u>Glide</u>		/w/		/j/		

The main difference with the Khasi language is that Lyngngam does not possess the voiced aspirated series. Furthermore, Lyngngam does not have the phoneme /ç/. Words which have /ç/ in Khasi typically have /c/ or /s/ in Lyngngam,^[4] as in the following pairs of cognates:

Lyngngam	Khasi	meaning
c?eŋ	ç?eŋ	bone
cippʰeu	çipʰeu	10
sŋjək	çniu?	hair
sna:r	çŋja?	chisel

Lyngngam	
<i>Lyngam</i>	
Native to	India
Region	Meghalaya, Assam
Native speakers	11,586 (2011 census) ^[1]
Language family	Austroasiatic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Khasian ▪ Lyngngam
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	lyg
Glottolog	lyng1241 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/lyng1241) ^[2]

Vowel inventory

The following table lists the vowel inventory of the language.^[3] The only vowels showing a length distinction are /i/ and /a/, in contradistinction to Khasi, where length is distinctive for all vowels.

	Front unrounded	Central unrounded	Back rounded
High	/i, i:/	/ɨ/	/u/
Mid	/e/	/ə/	/o/
Low	/a, a:/		

Words with diphthongs in Khasi have monophthongs in Lyngam,^[4] as in the following pairs of cognates:

Lyngam	Khasi	meaning
bni	bna:i	month
ksu	ksəu	dog
mot	miet	night

References

1. "Statement 1: Abstract of speakers' strength of languages and mother tongues - 2011" (http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011Census/Language_MTs.html). www.censusindia.gov.in. Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India. Retrieved 2018-07-07.
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "India Lyngam" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/lyng1241>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. [Nagaraja 1996](#), sect. 1
4. [Nagaraja 1996](#), sect. 2

- Nagaraja, K.S. (1996). "The status of Lyngngam" (<http://sealang.net/sala/archives/pdf8/nagaraja1996status.pdf>) (PDF). *Mon-Khmer Studies*. **26**: 37–50. Retrieved 9 March 2014.

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